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CONGRESS.—In the U. S. Senate, yesterday, the Military Committee reported against Mr. Sumner's Negro enlistment bill, on the ground that sufficient authority was furnished in the act of July 17, 1862. The bill to prevent correspondence with Rebels was passed. The House Finance bill, with the amendments reported by the Senate Finance Committee, was taken up. An amendment to make the tax on bank circulation one per cent. for two years, and two per cent. after that time, caused considerable discussion, but was finally adopted. The bill was finally passed. The House of Representatives yesterday took up the amendments adopted in Committee of the Whole to the Naval Appropriation bill.—The amendment submitted by Mr. Calvert, providing that no part of the money appropriated shall be applied to the support of the Midshipmen appointed by the Secretary of the Navy, was rejected—yeas 31, nays 70. The amendment providing that while the war lasts that there shall be one additional Midshipman appointed from each Congressional district in the loyal States, was adopted, and the bill then passed. The bill amending the Confiscation act was passed.

WAR NEWS.

A dispatch from General Kelley states that on Thursday a squad of Baylor's Confederate cavalry attacked twelve men of the 12th Pennsylvania cavalry scouting near Smithfield, killing one, wounding two, and capturing four men and several horses. The same afternoon a scouting party from Harper's Ferry fell in with the Confederates near Charlestown, and after a running fight of several miles, recaptured the men and horses, and took prisoners Lieutenant Baylor, commander of the party, two of his men and secured several horses.

A dispatch from Cairo reports, on the authority of Memphis papers of the 11th, that the Confederate advance in Mississippi is at Okalona, endeavoring to repair the railroad destroyed by Gen. Grant. It was reported that a large portion of the Confederate army from Virginia has been massed at Vicksburg, whither all the garrison at Mobile, except four thousand men left for police duty, had also been sent. The railroad from Selma to Meridan has been completed, thus enabling the Confederates to rapidly concentrate their forces at Vicksburg.

The King Phillip, Master Eldridge, arrived yesterday from the lower Potomac, bringing up a number of prisoners who were taken a night or two since, as they were leaving the Maryland shore near Blackiston's Island, to cross over. Their names are S. F. Cameron, who appears to be a chaplain in the Confederate army, and who had with him a trunk filled with testaments, John Cavall, who hails from Georgetown, D. Chandler and R. Rose.

The New York Letter of the Philadelphia Inquirer says:—"At the session of the Board of Aldermen, this afternoon, a curious development came out respecting the recent visit of alderman Boole and others, appointed to proceed to Falmouth to present the Sickel's Brigade with a stand of colors, and to bring back the body of the late Adjutant, Charles Layti, killed at Fredericksburg. The Committee, it will be remembered, could not go beyond Washington, in consequence of the refusal of the Secretary of War to give them the necessary passes, but the reason for the refusal is now for the first time made known. The committee say they waited upon the President and Secretary of War repeatedly: both promised to facilitate the objects of their mission; but, some how or other, neither of them could be brought to the point till after much valuable time had been consumed, when they were informed that there were certain reasons for refusing the committee a pass, which could not then be explained, whereupon there was no alternative for the committee but to return home. The "Reasons," mysteriously alluded to, have reference to an impression on the part of the Government that the real motive of that mission of the New York Aldermen to Fredericksburg was of a political character, and that they were moved with quite as much anxiety to have a friendly talk with the Confederates, as to obtain from them the mortal remains of Adjutant Layti. Where the Government received that impression the city fathers do not say, but it is quite clear, from the tenor of their complaint, that they came away from the city of magnificent distances with a very large insect in their auricle."

The paper manufacturers deny that they have formed a combination to raise the price of paper, but they cannot deny that they have formed a combination to compel or influence Congress to retain the present duty on paper. The Springfield (Mass.) Republican states that the wealthy manufacturers of paper in Massachusetts have a large lobby now in Washington, and we hear the same report from every locality where paper manufacturers do most congregate.

The N. Y. Tribune says: Gen. Foster was a passenger by the Arago, yesterday, to consult with the Government. He is expected to return in ten days. Until then, hardly anything will be done. The force under Gen. Foster is not deemed sufficiently large yet to make any demonstration. It was said at Hilton Head that he was ordered North for reinforcements. The World indicates that there is a disagreement between Gens. Foster and Hunter relative to their rank. The forces in North Carolina under the former had partly been landed on Bay Point, where they are encamped.

Some days ago, a warrant was issued by Justice Bates, in Washington, against Chas. Rosenbush, who is charged upon the oath of W. T. Smithson, banker, with "passing and circulating a quantity of counterfeit money in paper, knowing the same to be spurious." The warrant was placed in the hands of officer Kimball, who followed Rosenbush to Baltimore and traced him back to Washington, where he arrested him Wednesday night, and he gave bail for a hearing.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Journal of Commerce tells the following: "A funny story is circulating about the capital to-day, which I give you for what it is worth. Two members of the House asked permission to print their speeches instead of delivering them; and there are now in print two speeches, with different names upon them, which are so precisely alike as to excite astonishment. The inference is that the manufacturer made a mistake."

Senator Harris has reported a bill reorganizing the courts of the District of Columbia, providing for the establishment of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, to consist of four justices, one of whom shall be chief justice, and possessing the powers of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia; the general terms of the Court to be held at the same time as those of the District Court.

The Peace Commissioners appointed by the Legislature of Illinois, are among the first men in the state. Stephen T. Logan, of Springfield, is the head of the Commission.—Mr. Logan was the friend of Mr. Lincoln, and voted for him. He was a member of the Peace Congress from Illinois. In the November election, old man as he is, he stood upon the hustings, all day, distributing Democratic votes, and begging all his old Republican friends to vote the democratic ticket, to save the country.

It is believed that the House is about equally divided upon the question of Mr. Chase's banking bill.

Mr. Longworth, the Cincinnati millionaire, who died a few days ago, leaves an estate valued at from \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000. His wife, aged 76 still survives, with three children. He also leaves thirteen grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and an only sister.

The letters of Secretary Seward and M. Mercier, the French Minister, in relation to the visit of the latter to Richmond, several months ago, contain several apparent discrepancies, which are attracting some attention; but the N. Y. Tribune asserts that "no issue of veracity has arisen."

Major General Fremont has made application for active service.

Lord Hartington and Colonel Leslie, who recently ran the blockade from Virginia into Lower Maryland, came near being captured by the Potomac flotilla. The third one of the party, however, Rev. D. R. Wilmer, who was crossing the river in another boat, was arrested and brought to Washington. On his person was found a pass from the Confederate General Winder for all three of them. Lord Hartington, it is understood, could have immediately crossed the lines under a flag of truce, but the extension of a similar privilege to Colonel Leslie, he being a British officer, was necessarily delayed.

The War Department has ordered a court of Inquiry to investigate the charges that certain officers of the Western army have been participating in the cotton traffic and using Government transportation for private purposes.